

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (Currently amended) A method of providing text-to-speech services, the method
2 comprising the steps of:
3 splitting a text into segments that include anticipated-content segments and
4 unanticipated-content segments,
5 wherein each of the anticipated-content segments have previously satisfied criteria for
6 being pre-recorded, and
7 wherein each of the unanticipated-content segments are not within the anticipated-
8 content segments;
9 generating speech for said anticipated-content segments based on pre-recorded sound
10 recordings that correspond to said anticipated-content segments; and
11 generating speech for said unanticipated-content segments using speech synthesis.
- 1 2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 comprising the steps of storing usage
2 statistics that identify which segments are contained in texts that are
3 translated using said text-to-speech services.
- 1 3. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein the usage statistics indicate frequency of
2 use of at least a set of said segments.
- 1 4. (Original) The method of Claim 3 wherein:
2 the usage statistics indicate frequency of use of unanticipated-content segments; and
3 the method includes the step of selecting, based on said usage statistics, a set of
4 unanticipated-content segments for which to make recordings.

1 5. (Original) The method of Claim 4 wherein the step of selecting a set of unanticipated-
2 content segments includes selecting a set of unanticipated-content segments that were
3 most frequently used during a time period.

1 6. (Original) The method of Claim 3 wherein:
2 the usage statistics indicate frequency of use of anticipated-content segments; and
3 the method includes the steps of
4 selecting a set of anticipated-content segments based on said usage statistics;
5 and
6 removing recordings associated with the selected anticipated-content
7 segments.

1 7. (Original) The method of Claim 6 wherein the step of selecting a set of anticipated-
2 content segments includes selecting a set of anticipated-content segments that were
3 least frequently used during a period of time.

1 8. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
2 recording a plurality of recordings for a particular anticipated-segment;
3 storing data that indicates rules for selecting between said plurality of recordings; and
4 when said text contains said particular anticipated-content segment, applying the rules
5 indicated in said data to select one of said plurality of recordings; and
6 generating speech for said particular anticipated-segment using said selected
7 recording.

1 9. (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein:
2 the text is from a particular source; and
3 the step of applying the rules includes determining which of said plurality of
4 recordings to select based at least in part on identity of said particular source.

- 1 10. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein:
2 the text is from one of a plurality of text sources managed by a plurality of parties;
3 and
4 the text-to-speech services are provided by a host, separate from said plurality of
5 parties, that is connected to said text sources over a network system.
- 1 11. (Original) The method of Claim 10 wherein the text sources are web pages that
2 contain text, and said network system is the World Wide Web.
- 1 12. (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein:
2 the anticipated-content segment appears in a particular context within said text; and
3 the step of applying the rules includes determining which of said plurality of
4 recordings to select based at least in part on said particular context.
- 1 13. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium carrying instructions for providing
2 text-to-speech services, the instructions including instructions for performing the steps
3 of:
4 splitting a text into segments that include anticipated-content segments and
5 unanticipated-content segments,
6 wherein each of the anticipated-content segments have previously satisfied criteria for
7 being pre-recorded, and
8 wherein each of the unanticipated-content segments are not within the anticipated-
9 content segments;
10 generating speech for said anticipated-content segments based on pre-recorded sound
11 recordings that correspond to said anticipated-content segments; and
12 generating speech for said unanticipated-content segments using speech synthesis.

- 1 14. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 13 comprising the
2 steps of storing usage statistics that identify which segments are
3 contained in texts that are translated using said text-to-speech services.
- 1 15. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 14 wherein the usage statistics
2 indicate frequency of use of at least a set of said segments.
- 1 16. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 15 wherein:
2 the usage statistics indicate frequency of use of unanticipated-content segments; and
3 the computer-readable medium includes the step of selecting, based on said usage
4 statistics, a set of unanticipated-content segments for which to make
5 recordings.
- 1 17. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 16 wherein the step of selecting a
2 set of unanticipated-content segments includes selecting a set of unanticipated-content
3 segments that were most frequently used during a time period.
- 1 18. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 15 wherein:
2 the usage statistics indicate frequency of use of anticipated-content segments; and
3 the computer-readable medium includes the steps of
4 selecting a set of anticipated-content segments based on said usage statistics;
5 and
6 removing recordings associated with the selected anticipated-content
7 segments.
- 1 19. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 18 wherein the step of selecting a
2 set of anticipated-content segments includes selecting a set of anticipated-content
3 segments that were least frequently used during a period of time.

1 20. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 13 further comprising the steps
2 of:
3 recording a plurality of recordings for a particular anticipated-segment;
4 storing data that indicates rules for selecting between said plurality of recordings; and
5 when said text contains said particular anticipated-content segment, applying the rules
6 indicated in said data to select one of said plurality of recordings; and
7 generating speech for said particular anticipated-segment using said selected
8 recording.

1 21. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 20 wherein:
2 the text is from a particular source; and
3 the step of applying the rules includes determining which of said plurality of
4 recordings to select based at least in part on identity of said particular source.

1 22. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 20 wherein:
2 the anticipated-content segment appears in a particular context within said text; and
3 the step of applying the rules includes determining which of said plurality of
4 recordings to select based at least in part on said particular context.